Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians Ernakulam):* Subsequent to that did he discontinue that practice.

FOOD PROBLEMS—MEETING OF EMINENT MEN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

81. Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)* : Will Government be pleased to state whether the Director of Food Supplies gives opportunities to the Members of this House, for meeting and placing their views before the eminent men who visit our State in connection with Food Problems?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* : Yes, as far as possible.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* When an Hon'ble Member of this House wants to meet eminent people, has that member to write and inform the Director of Food Supplies?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* When the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi informed the Government that he wanted to meet the Famine Commission to give evidence, he was informed of the procedure that in such cases a written Memorandum has to be sent to the Secretary to the Commission and their sanction obtained for interview in each case. The Hon'ble Member of Kunnamkulam who also wanted an interview was informed of this procedure.

SALE OF JAGGERY

82. Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu)* : Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have issued orders prohibiting the sale of jaggery (ശർക്കരവെല്ലം) by retail or wholesale merchants in the State ;

(*b*) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative will they please state why those orders were issued and when;

(*c*) will they please state how the jaggery (ശർക്കര) in stock when orders were issued is directed to be disposed of;

(*d*) if there be no direction made will they please state how the stockists are to be indemnified by the deterioration and damage of the stocks in hand with them on the date of the order under reference?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies)* :

(*a*) No such general orders have been issued. But an order was issued on 29th August 1944 to the Assistant Supply Officers to direct the merchants, under notification No. 93, dated 2nd January 1944, not to dispose of jaggery imported into the State from Madras Province. When the Madras Government without the consent of the State issued permits to private merchants to export large quantities of jaggery to the State out of the quota, it was necessary to prohibit their sale to conserve the stock for proper distribution. If large quantities were sold indiscriminately, the State would have had to face acute scarcity for jaggery after the quota was sold. To prevent such a crisis Government had to take the above steps. The Madras Government have since directed the merchants to whom permits were issued to consign the stock to the State Government in future. The jaggery already imported by private merchants in the State is being purchased by the Government.

(*b*) See answer to (*a*).

(*c*) See answer to (*a*).

(*d*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*a*).

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunuathukauv):* May I know whether the purchases are over? It is being purchased is the answer.

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* It is almost over.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Industries and Commerce):* What was the quota of jaggery allotted for the Cochin Government by the Madras Goyernment?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* 7,000 tons.

Mr. P. P. Devassi *(Trichur-South):* Did the Government get down the whole quota allotted to it in one lot?

Rao Sahib M. M. Paul *(Director of Food Supplies):* No. The quota was allotted in small quantities month by month and accordingly consignments were purchased and sent over to the State according to the arrangements made with the Civil Supplies Department of Madras.

Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan *(Industries and Commerce):* Did not the Madras Government consult the Cochin Government before issuing permits to the dealers to purchase jaggery there?

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